

Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study
John Beard House
also known as Lucinda Mooers Homestead
20 Orange Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-1069

HABS
MASS
10-NANT
760-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ORANGE AND UNION STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY
JOHN BEARD HOUSE
also known as the Lucinda Mooers Homestead

HABS
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Location: 20 Orange Street (on east side), Nantucket,
Massachusetts

Present Owner: Madeleine Everett Loder

Present Occupant: Mrs. Loder

Present Use: Seasonal occupancy

Brief Statement
of Significance: A typical Nantucket four-bay house; part of the
Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study (MASS-
1014).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1799 -- John Beard owned this land after a division in
the 4th Fish Lot Shares between John Beard and
the other heirs of Matthew Beard.
- 1816 -- Edmund Fanning bought "house and land" from John
Beard.
- 1818 -- Edward Clark bought from Edmund Fanning and Nabby
(Abigail) Fanning.
- 1826 -- Lucinda Mooers bought from Edward Clark for \$1600.
- 1860 -- David C. Baxter bought from William M. Bates who
inherited the property from his grandmother, Lucinda
Mooers, "being the homestead of my grandmother, the
late Lucinda Mooers. My title as sole heir of
Lucinda Mooers".
- 1863 -- John Winn bought from David C. Baxter.
- 1873 -- Joseph B. Macy bought from John Winn.
- 1882 -- Louisa E. Smalley purchased the property from
Joseph B. Macy for \$1400.
- 1914 -- Leila I. Laughlin bought from Louisa E. Smalley.
- 1964 to date -- Madeleine Everett Loder under will of
Leila (Laughlin) Carlisle.
(Abstract: Records at Registry Deeds, Nantucket,
Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Between 1799 and 1816. There definitely
was a house on the land in 1816 (Abstract: Book 23, Page
446, Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Mass.)

3. Architect: Not known
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: A simple, small house erected close to the street with a small ell at rear. Typical of type house built at the time in this section.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The main part has been little changed structurally. Additions have been made at the rear and the house has been adapted for modern living.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

This section of Orange Street was early known as Quaanaty Bank, an Indian name for a bluff or long hill. It was in the Fourth Fish Lot Share. Orange Street was opened in 1726 but the streets were not named until 1797. Orange Street was first paved with cobblestones which are said to still be in place under the asphalt.

The Beard family came to Nantucket from Teignmouth, England and owned several pieces of property in this section up to 1874.

Edmund Fanning, owner of the house in 1816, was the grandson of Kezia Coffin, about whom Col. Joseph Hart wrote in 1835 in his book Miriam Coffin. Edmund Fanning's father, Phineas Fanning, was a young lawyer to whom is attributed the writing of the well-known lines describing the characteristics of the Nantucket families of his day.

Lucinda Mooers bought the property in 1826. Her mother's maiden name was Giles as was Edmund Fanning's wife's, so it is probable that the house remained in the same family from 1816 to 1860.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Photograph of Orange Street with original cobblestones in Nantucket Illustrated; by A. Wittemann, New York: Albertype Co., 1888; drawing of Orange Street in Nantucket Sketchbook by Edwin Ebermann, 1946; plan of land of Mrs. Louisa E. Smalley (20 Orange Street) surveyed by William F. Codd, 1914 (Book of Plans No. 5, Page 22); Lot C on Land Court Plan 11438B, filed with Land Court Certificate of Title No. 1596 (Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts).

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
July 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Typical eighteenth or early nineteenth century construction; minor modifications at east side (rear) of house, two dormers in each roof slope; excellent condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 25' 1" by 48' 0".
2. Foundations: Stone with cement wash painted black above grade.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame, shingles painted white, corner boards.
4. Structural system: Post and lintel with posts, girts and summer beams exposed in first floor interior spaces.
5. Stoops and porches: Wood stoop extends across west side of house, steps at entrance to sidewalk; "dingle" or enclosed entrance at rear, stone pavers at rear doorways.
6. Chimney: Multi-flue brick chimney near center of gable with concrete cap.
7. Openings:
 - a. Windows: six-over-six windows, wood board and plank frame.
 - b. Doorway and doors: Carpenter classic doorway, five-pane side lights, four-panel wood door, brass knocker and thumb latch; glazed and board doors at rear entrances.
8. Roof: Gable roof, asphalt shingle covering, two dormers each in east and west slopes, four-over-four windows; wood roof walls in two bays penetrated by chimney, square newels and balusters; wood gutter with sheet metal downspouts let into cast iron drains.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans (survey limited to first floor): This house has a basement, first floor, second floor, and garret with bedrooms. First floor: Entered off front stoop into stair/entry hall, parlor at southwest, diningroom behind stair/entry hall, kitchen at southeast corner, hall and secondary stair at northeast corner; hall between parlor and kitchen, chimney core reworked; stairways to second floor and cellar at rear of front stairway.

2. Stairways:

- a. Front stairway: L-shaped stair with winders at second floor continues to spaces in garret and to roof walk; turned newel, ivory insert, turned balusters set onto boxed stringer, board partition between front stairs and secondary stairs to second floor.
 - b. Service stairs: Service stairs are L-shaped with winders and/or landings, one with rope handrail.
3. Flooring: Wide pine boards, cut and wire nails, painted brown and grey, parlor floor painted to simulate marble.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted and papered plaster, panel fireplace walls in parlor, kitchen and diningroom, wainscot in parlor.
 5. Doorways and doors: Simple carpenter classic trim with four-lights overdoor; two panel doors paneled both sides with either plane panels or feather-edged with quarter rounds at the frame, mortise and tenon construction.
 6. Trim: Decoration limited to articulation of structural system; all members with beaded edges.
 7. Notable hardware: Most hardware appears to be twentieth century and reproductions of style appropriate to the period.
 8. Lighting: Modern electric.
 9. Heating: Fireplaces in central chimney core originally opened into principal spaces, parlor fireplace and kitchen fireplaces operate; parlor fireplace of ceramic brick hearth, reveal and surround; simple classic mantel; kitchen fireplace has Franklin front with coal grate, semicircular hearth, brass trim.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The house faces west on Orange Street, almost abutting #22, the Nathaniel Woodbury House, to the east. A wood stoop with balustrade extends across the front of the house, an unusual feature for Nantucket. The rear yard is informally planted with hip rose hedge marking edge of Quaanaty Hill, terraced by free stones and stone curb; lattice screen, outbuilding and wood board fence screen yard from #22 to the south; outbuilding is wood frame, shingled exterior with asphalt shingle gable roof, batten door with wrought iron hinges with pintles, wood bar latch; areaway between #20 and #18 paved with cobblestone and stone pavers.

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Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A.
Nantucket, Massachusetts
July 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014) made in the summer of 1970 by the Historic American Buildings Survey on Nantucket, Massachusetts. This is the fifth summer project of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Director was Professor F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A., of the University of Florida. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.